

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 STR-01 SS-15 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR CA

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE MINISTER STATES CANADA TO SEEK LIFTING OF
U.S. QUOTAS ON MEAT AND LIVESTOCK

PASS AGRICULTURE FAS/J. STARKEY

1. ON TWO OCCASIONS IN PAST WEEK MINAG WHELAN STATED
GOC NEGOTIATING WITH THE U.S. FOR REMOVAL OF IMPORT
QUOTAS.

2. ON FEBRUARY 1 IN SPEECH TO WESTERN STOCK GROWERS'
ASSOCIATION IN EDMONTON, MINISTER WHELAN TOLD HIS
AUDIENCE: QUOTE WE ARE WORKING TO QUOTA-FREE ACCESS
FOR YOUR EXOTIC CATTLE TO THE U.S. MARKET...AND, I
THINK WE ARE GETTING THE POINT ACCROSS TO WASHINGTON
OFICIALS UNQUOTE.

3. WHELAN ALSO REFERRED TO QUOTA ACTIONS LAST AUGUST
AS A COINCIDENCE QUOTE SOME PEOPLE THOUGHT IT LOOKED
PECULIAR FOR US TO BE ANNOUNCING OUR BEEF STABILIZATION
PROGRAM WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF THE U.S. AGREEING TO OUR
STANDARD S FOR CERTIFYING THEIR CATTLE DES-FREE. IT
WANST PLOTTED. IT WAS COINCIDENCE. WE HAD NO
IDEA WHEN THE U.S. WAS GOING TO AGREE TO OUR RULES
FOR CERTIFICAATION UNQUOTE.

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4. IN WIRE SERVICE NEWS ITEM APPEARING IN TORONTO

GOLBE AND MAIL FEBRUARY 7, WHELAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE STATED MORE ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE NEXT WEEK TO HAVE U.S. LIFT ITS PARTIAL BAN ON CANADIAN BEEF AND PORK. THE STORY QUOTES WHELAN AS STATING QUOTE WE HAD TALKS ABOUT A WEEK AGO AND THERE SHOULD BE SOME MORE NEXT WEEK UNQUOTE.

5. COMMENT: I AM NOT AWARE OF RECENT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS MENTIONED BY WHELAN AND WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED IF ANY HAVE TAKEN PLACE. I RECOMMEND THAT USG STICK FIRMLY TO ITS POSITION THAT U.S. RESTRICTIONS WILL COME OFF WHEN CANADIAN RESTRICTIONS DO AND NOT BEFORE.
PORTER

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